Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a method for selectively enriching/removing a serum albumin from a mixture of other compounds by contacting said mixture with a ligand (= X), the improvement comprising said ligand

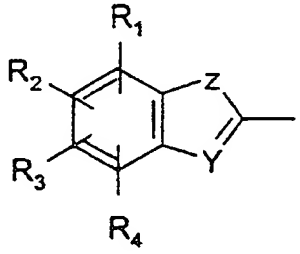
a) having affinity for and enabling binding of the serum albumin and

b) being attached via a spacer (= B) to a base matrix (= M') insoluble in the aqueous media used, the matrix with the attached ligand being represented by

M-B-X

where M is the matrix, B is the spacer and X the affinity ligand, with the provision that M may contain further groups X linked via a spacer,

~~characterized in that~~wherein said ligand X has been selected among serum albumin-binding structures complying with the formulae



in which

a) the free valence bind to the spacer B;

b) R_{1-4} are selected from hydrogen, electron-withdrawing groups, such as halogens and lower alkyl groups (C_{1-10}) that possibly are substituted with electron withdrawing groups, such as halogens;

B1 conclude

c) Z and Y are selected among oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen, with the provision that the nitrogen may carry a positive charge.

B2

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method ~~according to claim 1, characterized in that~~of claim 1, wherein contact between the mixture and the media M-B-X is done in an aqueous media having a pH at which the -B-X carries a positive charge.

B3

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method ~~according to claim 1, characterized in that~~of claim 1, wherein at least one of R1-4 exhibit an electron withdrawing group, preferably selected among halogens such as fluorine.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method ~~according to claim 1, characterized in that~~of claim 1, wherein the spacer has a sulphur atom next to X.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method ~~according to claim 1, characterized in that~~of claim 1, wherein Z and Y are nitrogens, one of which binding to a hydrogen and the ligand structure being charged depending of pH.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said mixture derives from a host in which said serum albumin is human serum albumin.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said ligand is attached covalently to said matrix.

B3 Conclude

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein after the adsorption step said serum albumin is eluted from said affinity adsorbent and if necessary further processed.

Claims 9–10 (withdrawn)